

27
28 June 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD U

On June 23 at 1300 on request I called with Director Helms on John Ehrlichman and Robert Haldeman in Ehrlichman's office at the White House.

Haldeman said that the "bugging" affair at the Democratic National Committee Hqs at the Watergate Apartments had made a lot of noise and the Democrats were trying to maximize it. The FBI had been called in and was investigating the matter. The investigation was leading to a lot of important people and this could get worse. He asked what the connection with the Agency was and the Director repeated that there was none. Haldeman said that the whole affair was getting embarrassing and it was the President's wish that Walters call on Acting FBI Director Patrick Gray and suggest to him that since the five suspects had been arrested that this should be sufficient and that it was not advantageous to have the enquiry pushed, especially in [REDACTED] etc.

Director Helms said that he had talked to Gray on the previous day and had made plain to him that the Agency was not behind this matter, that it was not connected with it and none of the suspects was working for, nor had worked for the Agency in the last two years. He had told Gray that none of his investigations was touching any covert projects of the Agency, current or ongoing.

Haldeman then stated that I could tell Gray that I had talked to the White House and suggest that the investigation not be pushed further. Gray would be receptive as he was looking for guidance in the matter.

The Director repeated that the Agency was unconnected with the matter. I then agreed to talk to Gray as directed. Ehrlichman implied I could do this soon and I said I would try to do it today.

Upon leaving the White House I discussed the matter briefly with the Director. On returning to the office I called Gray, indicated that this was a matter of some urgency, and he agreed to see me at 1430 that day.

Vernon A. Walters
Lieutenant General, USA